

the condition of education 2001



INDICATOR 54

Parental Involvement in Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2001*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2001*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001072>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement



Family Support

Parental Involvement in Schools

The levels of parental involvement in American elementary and secondary education are relatively high, but the frequency of such participation depends on the child's grade in school as well as parental income and educational attainment.

Effective parental involvement in education requires a working partnership among parents, teachers, and administrators. Many schools actively encourage parents to increase their involvement in their children's education. Parental involvement can include attendance at a general meeting (open houses or back-to-school nights); a scheduled meeting with a teacher (parent-teacher conferences); a school event (class plays, sports, or science fairs); or acting as a volunteer or committee member.

In both 1996 and 1999, at least 90 percent of children had parents who participated in at least one of these activities. However, parents in both years were least likely to participate in the activity that required the most time—acting as a volunteer or serving on a committee (see supplemental table 54-1).

Parental involvement typically is lower for children in higher grades. As an illustration, in 1999, 88 percent of children in grades K–5

had parents who reported that they had attended a scheduled meeting with a teacher. In contrast, among children in grades 6–8 and 9–12, about 70 percent and 51 percent, respectively, had parents who reported attendance at such a meeting.

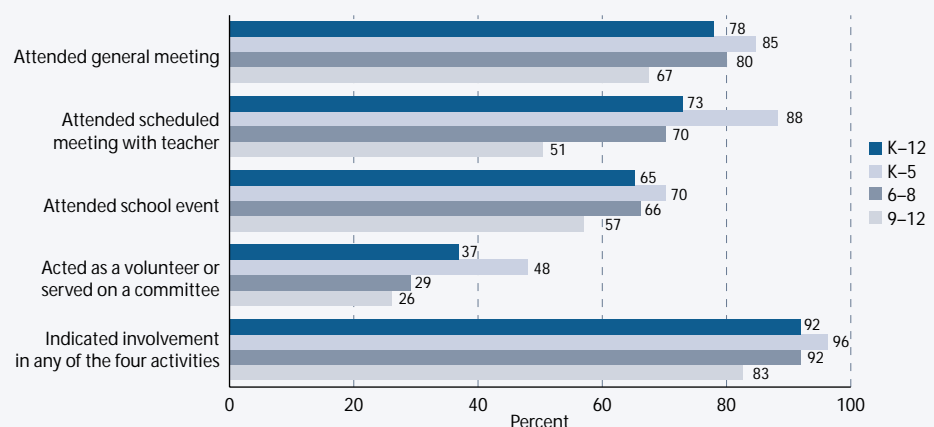
Parents' involvement is related to household income and their level of education. As household income and educational attainment increase, the percentage of students whose parents reported attending a general or a scheduled meeting with a teacher, attending a school event, or serving as a volunteer or committee member also increases (see supplemental table 54-1).

Among racial/ethnic groups, white students are more likely than black and Hispanic students to have parents who report participation in school activities. Black and Hispanic students were equally likely to have parents who participated in the four categories of activities in 1999.

NOTE: Ungraded students or children who were home schooled were not included in this analysis; these students accounted for 1.6 percent of students in grades K–12. Data have been revised from previously published figures.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 1999 (Parent Interview Survey).

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT: Percentage of students in grades K–12 whose parents reported involvement in specific activities in their child's school: 1999



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 3
Supplemental Table 54-1

Parental Involvement in Schools

Table 54-1 Percentage of students in grades K–12 whose parents reported involvement in their child's school, by grade and selected characteristics: 1996 and 1999

Characteristic	Attended general meeting		Attended scheduled meeting with teacher		Attended school event		Acted as a volunteer or served on a committee		Indicated involvement in any of the four activities	
	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999
Total	76.9	78.3	71.8	72.8	66.7	65.4	38.7	36.8	91.7	91.5
Grade										
K- 5	83.2	84.6	86.1	87.5	71.7	70.4	48.9	47.6	96.2	96.3
6- 8	77.9	79.6	69.5	70.4	65.7	65.7	30.4	29.1	91.5	92.1
9- 12	65.4	67.3	49.7	51.3	59.1	57.3	28.4	25.6	84.2	83.4
Race/ethnicity										
White	79.0	80.5	72.6	73.6	71.6	71.6	44.1	42.7	93.5	93.8
Black	71.6	74.6	68.8	71.1	56.4	53.8	26.9	26.2	86.4	87.0
Hispanic	73.6	73.1	71.5	71.0	54.7	51.4	26.4	24.5	89.0	86.8
Other	73.2	76.6	71.6	73.1	64.2	62.3	35.4	30.6	89.9	90.3
Household income										
\$10,000 or less	65.2	66.8	68.7	67.3	50.1	49.6	23.2	21.2	83.9	84.1
\$10,001- 20,000	68.1	69.1	68.1	70.2	58.8	52.5	27.0	22.9	87.5	86.0
\$20,001- 35,000	73.3	74.2	70.2	70.4	63.4	59.3	33.1	31.1	90.6	89.1
\$35,001- 50,000	80.5	80.7	75.0	74.5	71.8	71.0	42.9	38.5	94.2	93.8
More than \$50,000	86.8	86.7	74.2	76.2	77.5	76.2	52.9	49.7	96.4	96.3
Parents' highest education level										
Less than high school	57.5	57.3	62.7	59.9	42.2	37.7	16.9	13.0	79.1	75.9
High school diploma or equivalent	71.5	72.7	69.2	69.7	60.2	58.7	30.1	26.0	89.3	88.4
Some college, including vocational/technical	77.9	79.1	72.5	73.7	69.2	66.9	39.2	37.4	92.9	93.1
Bachelor's degree	87.4	87.3	77.4	80.3	76.4	75.6	52.3	49.8	96.8	97.1
Graduate/professional school	88.5	88.9	76.3	76.0	81.9	78.9	56.7	54.3	97.2	96.8
Family structure										
Two biological/adoptive parents	82.2	84.2	74.0	76.2	71.3	71.0	46.9	46.1	94.5	95.0
One biological/adoptive parent	69.2	71.2	70.3	69.5	60.4	58.2	28.3	25.6	88.0	87.2
One biological/adoptive and one stepparent	72.7	73.9	69.3	68.8	63.3	64.2	26.9	29.4	90.8	90.1
Other relatives	60.3	67.1	54.0	64.4	50.5	47.4	20.3	20.5	76.4	81.9
Step- or foster parents	*69.0	*58.7	*67.5	*59.4	*55.0	*52.9	*23.5	*19.5	86.2	81.3

* Interpret with caution; standard errors are large due to small sample size.

NOTE: Data have been revised from previously published figures. Ungraded students or children who were home schooled are not included in this analysis; these students accounted for 1.6 percent of the students in grades K–12. Percentages may not add to 100.0 because parents can be included in more than one type of involvement. See *Supplemental Note 3* for more information. See *Supplemental Note 1* for information on the racial/ethnic categories.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey) and 1999 (Parent Interview Survey).

Parental Involvement in Schools

Table S54 Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades K–12 whose parents reported involvement in specific activities in their child's school: 1999

Parental involvement	K–12	K–5	6–8	9–12
Attended general meeting	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Attended scheduled meeting with teacher	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.1
Attended school event	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9
Acted as a volunteer or served on a committee	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.8
Indicated involvement in any of the four activities	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.7

NOTE: Data have been revised from previously published figures.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 1999 (Parent Interview Survey).

Parental Involvement in Schools

Table S54-1 Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades K–12 whose parents reported involvement in their child's school, by grade and selected characteristics: 1996 and 1999

Characteristic	Attended general meeting		Attended scheduled meeting with teacher		Attended school event		Acted as a volunteer or served on a committee		Indicated involvement in any of the four activities	
	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999
Total	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Grade										
K- 5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
6- 8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5
9- 12	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7
Race/ethnicity										
White	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3
Black	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0
Hispanic	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9
Other	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.3	1.5
Household income										
\$10,000 or less	1.5	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
\$10,001- 20,000	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9
\$20,001- 35,000	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.7
\$35,001- 50,000	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.4	0.5
More than \$50,000	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3
Parents' highest education level										
Less than high school	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.5
High school diploma or equivalent	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7
Some college, including vocational/technical	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.5
Bachelor's degree	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.2	0.4	0.4
Graduate/professional school	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.4
Family structure										
Two biological/adoptive parents	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3
One biological/adoptive parent	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7
One biological/adoptive and one stepparent	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.8
Other relatives	2.7	2.7	3.2	2.7	2.6	3.1	2.5	1.9	2.5	1.9
Step- or foster parents	7.1	6.8	7.2	6.2	8.5	6.3	7.8	4.7	4.3	4.9

NOTE: Data have been revised from previously published figures.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey) and 1999 (Parent Interview Survey).